



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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NOTICE CONCERNING EX PARTE STATUS OF INFORMATION SUBMITTED TO OR BY THE CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Consumer Advisory Committee (Committee) of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) is a federal advisory committee, whose charter was renewed in October of 2014. The mission of the Committee is to make recommendations to the Commission regarding consumer issues within the jurisdiction of the Commission and to facilitate the participation of consumers (including underserved populations, such as Native Americans, persons living in rural areas, older persons, people with disabilities, and persons for whom English is not their primary language) in proceedings before the Commission. The Committee's duties include providing guidance to the Commission, gathering data and information, and performing those analyses that are necessary to respond to the questions or matters before it.

The Committee is organized under, and operated in accordance with, the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).¹ Under the FACA, the Commission is responsible for oversight of the Committee, including its task forces, subcommittees, or working groups.² As a result, FCC staff may participate in meetings or other activities of the Committee or its task forces, subcommittees or working groups. In light of this, we are announcing that, pursuant to section 1.1200(a) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1200(a), presentations to the Committee, including to its task forces, subcommittees or working groups, and presentations between Committee members and FCC staff, will be treated as exempt presentations for *ex parte* purposes. This includes presentations to events hosted or coordinated by the Committee in which Committee members participate, such as forums and roundtable discussions on topics under consideration by the Committee. This treatment is appropriate because presentations to the Committee, like comments on a Notice of Inquiry, will not directly result in the promulgation of new rules.³

We recognize, however, that issues addressed by the Committee may be the subject of a number of pending FCC proceedings. The Commission will not rely in these proceedings on any information submitted to the Committee, or to any of its task forces, subcommittees, working groups, or information conveyed by Committee members to FCC staff unless that information is first placed in the record of the relevant proceeding.

¹ 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

² See *id.*

³ See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1204(b)(1) (exempt treatment of presentations regarding a Notice of Inquiry).

For further information about the Committee, contact: Scott Marshall, Designated Federal Officer, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, Room 3-A633, 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20554; phone: 202-418-2809 (voice or Relay); email: scott.marshall@fcc.gov.

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